



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Anthony Staskunas

17th District Supervisor

TO: Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
& All Other Interested Parties

FROM: Supervisor Tony Staskunas

DATE: June 12, 2017

RE: Ballpark Commons Project

I want to communicate with the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and all other interested parties regarding my position on the Ballpark Commons Project proposal. The Ballpark Commons Project is located in my district. I have spent many hours investigating and researching this project. I have spoken with, and met with, elected officials in both the City of Franklin and the Village of Greendale, the developer, and other members of the developer's team, Milwaukee County staff, and many residents of Greendale and Franklin. I organized a very well attended public meeting on the project at the Franklin Public Library. I have posed hundreds of questions to Milwaukee County staff and others regarding this project.

There are currently two pending matters before the Milwaukee County Board regarding the Ballpark Commons Project. These issues are important, but are preliminary in nature. They involve removing County Trunk Highway K (West Old Loomis Road) from the County Trunk Highway system, and voiding the current lease agreement between The Rock and Milwaukee County. These two matters were referred back to committee by the Milwaukee County Board on May 25th. I want to let my colleagues know that at this point, I do not have any objection to allowing these two matters to move forward to a vote by the Milwaukee County Board.

Having said that, I want to inform my colleagues, and all other interested parties, that an important issue regarding noise and light needs to be resolved as part of this proposal. As you know, the next step in this process is that Milwaukee County Corporation Counsel and the Ballpark Commons team will negotiate an option to purchase in which the Ballpark Commons will be able to purchase Milwaukee County land. While the Board will not vote on the option to purchase, the Board will vote on the creation of a reserve fund to hold funds for environmental remediation. Milwaukee County Corporation Counsel and Milwaukee County DAS are all in agreement that the environmental remediation reserve fund will require Milwaukee County Board approval. At this point, it is unknown when the option to purchase/environmental remediation reserve fund will be ready for a final vote by the Milwaukee County Board, but that vote could come perhaps at the July 2017 meeting, or the September 2017 meeting.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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There continues to be an ongoing challenge at The Rock complex with noise and light. My office continues to receive complaints from neighbors regarding noise and light from the little league fields at The Rock complex and complaints regarding the music stage at The Rock complex. The Village of Greendale and the City of Franklin have also received complaints over the last few years. A large number of complaints were received after the opening of the concert season on Saturday, June 3rd.

I have communicated with the Ballpark Commons developer and made it very clear that I will not support the Ballpark Commons Project unless a comprehensive solution to the noise and light problems is made a part of the option to purchase agreement. The solution to the noise and light issues will need to address the current issues, at the little league baseball fields and at the bandstand, as well as provide for sufficient noise and light protection for the neighborhood as a result of the construction of the new baseball stadium and the surrounding development. While I do not require that the noise and light remediation be completed by the time the Board votes upon the Ballpark Commons Project, I will need to be convinced that their recommendations will sufficiently take care of the noise and light problem. I would expect that both the Village of Greendale and the City of Franklin would have the opportunity to also review and comment upon the noise and light remediation solution.

Conclusion

1. I will support both of the items relating to the Ballpark Commons Project that will be a part of the Milwaukee County Board Agenda on June 22, 2017, and that I will not support any attempts to further delay these votes.

2. The Ballpark Commons Project will be before the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors either in July 2017 or September 2017 for a final vote. I will not support the Ballpark Commons Project unless a comprehensive and meaningful noise and light remediation plan is a part of the option to purchase agreement.